

ROSSMAN TO TESTIFY

APPARENTLY CONTINUING THEIR INQUIRY INTO THE DWP AGREEMENT, THE GRAND JURY CALLS INYO'S SPECIAL COUNSEL TO THE STAND.

The
Inyo County
NEWS-LETTER

60¢

January 9, 1984

Last month Inyo County Grand Jury members rocked water politics when they subpoenaed the supervisors and other officials to a hearing on the DWP/Inyo proposed water agreement. Many have been waiting for their report, but now Special Legal Counsel Tony Rossman has been asked to testify before the jury on that same issue.

Grand jury foreman William Bellona said that the hearing had been scheduled for January 9th, and that "someone else" would testify on the same topics dealt with in the earlier hearing. Although the jurors would not discuss the nature of that hearing, other officials did confirm that the agreement proposal was the topic of questioning.

The December 20th edition of *News-Letter* revealed that Rossman had written a letter to the supervisors regarding the agreement. In that letter Rossman said that his firm could not be held "professionally or publicly accountable for the ultimate result (of the agreement)," and that "...In several instances our advice has not been accurately reported to the board or the public, and in some instances has led to inferences that we have endorsed the provisions of the agreement before you." Clearly, Rossman had not endorsed it.

The grand jury may have learned that Rossman's letter was never released to the public because County Counsel Dennis Myers had stamped it confidential and wrote a memorandum to the board suggesting the letter was a "privileged document." It is believed that this letter and its cover-up may be the subject of testimony before the grand jury. It is also conceivable that Rossman may share his views on the agreement proposal and the fact that he was consulted selectively as the agreement was being negotiated and written.

When asked if he would testify before the Inyo Grand Jury, Rossman confirmed that he would - that he was "asked to come over." Rossman, who is one of the top environmental lawyers in the state, has worked on Inyo's water issue at reduced fees for a number of years. He was instrumental in the formulation and defense of Inyo's groundwater ordinance. Yet when it came time to negotiate on that ordinance, the supervisors and County Counsel chose to exclude him from key discussions. A reliable news source close to the negotiations said it was rumored that DWP's Duane Georgeson was the one who had asked that Rossman be excluded from negotiations and that Inyo's officials had agreed.

As the grand jury continues to probe

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WHERE CAN A CONVICTED KILLER LIVE?

Where will Dan White live when he is paroled from prison? News media all over the state were trying to find the answer to that question as the former San Francisco supervisor and convicted killer was preparing for release. Even Inyo and Mono counties were being considered as potential locations for White's parole.

Five years ago White shot and killed Mayor George Moscone and fellow supervisor Harvey Milk, who was the first avowed homosexual to take high office in San Francisco.

White, who had been distraught over his own resignation from the Board of Supervisors, was convicted of voluntary manslaughter and not murder. The homosexual community in San Francisco and elsewhere was outraged.

When it came time for White to be paroled, prison officials had to think carefully about where to release him and where to require him to live. Southern California media began checking counties all over the state to see if law enforcement had been contacted concerning White's relocation.

Reporters contacted Inyo and Mono saying that it was "possible" White would be released to a "rural area of low homosexual

(Continued on Page 8)

ROSSMAN (Continued from page 1)

the water agreement issue, Inyo officials are still writing and re-writing drafts of what they are calling a "final agreement" document. Perhaps cognizant of the fact that Rossman has been called to testify before the grand jury, officials are now saying that he will be asked to comment on the draft agreement. Rossman was also scheduled to talk with the supervisors about water matters at their meeting the Tuesday following the grand jury hearing.

As for the final agreement, Water Director Greg James has said that the basic concepts would not change - including the pumping table, which makes it possible for DWP to pump more than the current court imposed limit. Those basic concepts continue to draw public opposition.

Members of the newly formed Owens Valley Committee are still quietly fighting the agreement. Former Supervisor Wilma Muth pled with the supervisors to place the agreement on the ballot. Owens Valley Committee chairman Bill Manning said the committee members are "holding firm for total rejection of the agreement." The committee's public survey indicated that most Inyo people want the same thing.

So far the supervisors have declined to deal with the ballot question, and it is still uncertain when the final agreement will go public. Until that time, Manning said the Owens Valley Committee will continue encouraging constituents to call their supervisors to let their feelings be known.

In past weeks that committee had hinted of possible legal action against the supervisors on the grounds that the county should

perform an environmental impact report on the agreement itself. Manning had no comment on that.

The supervisors, who had unanimously approved the original agreement concept, now seem less than unanimous in their support for the final document. Supervisor Lefty Irwin made the statement that 80% of his phone calls on the agreement expressed opposition to it. He said that when he looked at the final agreement he would have to take into account the sentiments of his constituents.

Supervisor Larry Calkins revealed a less than ironclad support for the proposal when he said he was not committed and the only reason he had voted in favor of the agreement concepts was to get them in final form.

At this point it may be a kind of race to see which comes first - the final form of the agreement or the report from the grand jury.



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New Direction For Local Education

THE OWENS VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT LOOKS
FOR IMPROVEMENT IN THE FUTURE.

A couple of years ago the Owens Valley School District of Independence was embroiled in controversy, both on the school board and in the superintendent's office. Morale was low, finances were questionable. But things have changed.

Independence residents recently received a mailer from Superintendent Ron Huebert telling them that the district is in good financial shape and that subjects have been added to the curriculum. Huebert added, however, that reforms are on the way.

Last year, in an effort to heal wounds between the school district and the community, Huebert and the school board asked people from Independence to serve on a citizens advisory committee. That group was concerned about the basic skills of Independence students. Huebert shares those same concerns. Some kids, even at the high school level, can not successfully read, write, or speak.

It's a malady that plagues schools all over the nation. Though no one is exactly sure why our educational system has deteriorated, the job now is to correct it. The Owens Valley superintendent insists that improve-

ments will be made in 1984. As an example, Huebert said that last year only two students took part in the Lions Club speech contest. This year, 15 to 20 high school students will compete in a school contest to qualify for the Lions Club contest. Huebert said that after reading the Carnegie Foundation report on American high schools and looking at expectations in Senate Bill 813 - which outlined some improvements that should be made in state schools and promised funding to help implement those changes - the next logical step for improvement is in the classroom.

When Huebert first came to the district, his first concern was getting finances in order, improving community relations, and lifting a low morale. Now he can look at the more basic problems; some high school students have problems writing a complete sentence.

Huebert believes the place to start is in the elementary school. There have been enough staff changes and reassignments within the school, says the superintendent, to get a fresh start on teaching the basics.

For those high school students who have gone through years of school, but still can't read and write there is also help. "We're small enough that we can work with individual high school students," Huebert said. Teacher Harry Holgate spends half of his time as a "resource specialist," working individually with kids who have special problems.

The advantage of Owens Valley School is that it is small enough, with only 130

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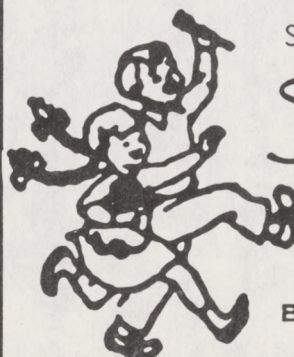
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News Briefs

INYO SUPERVISORS BREAK WITH TRADITION / NEW AIRLINE INTERESTED IN EASTERN SIERRA / SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT COLLECTS FOR RESCUES / SOME DEVELOPMENT FOR SOUTHERN INYO

Breaking tradition, the Inyo supervisors elected Johnny Johnson as chairman of board for 1984. For as long as most can remember, the vice chairman from the previous year takes over as chairman for the new year.

P.D. Cook was in line for the chairmanship, but he chose instead to nominate Johnny Johnson. Some board members were surprised by that nomination, though all supported Johnson. Cook also nominated Larry Clakins for vice chairman - that was also passed.

When asked why he relinquished his opportunity to be chairman of the board, Cook said that he wanted Johnson to do it because he knows more about the crucial issue facing the county. In explanation, Cook would only say that Johnson is already a member of the standing committee. The standing committee is the body dealing with DWP matters and heavily involved in the current DWP/Inyo agreement proposal.

Had Cook become chairman, he would have been immediately installed as a member of that committee. He apparently did not want that. As Supervisor Johnny Johnson has said, "It's going to be a very hard year." Some officials could find themselves taking a lot of political heat over the water issue.

Cook has also announced that he will not run again for supervisor in the June election. Meanwhile, Supervisor Johnny Johnson has made it very clear that he will, indeed, run for office again.

*

When Mojave Airlines suddenly and unexpectedly pulled flights out of Bishop and Mammoth last month, the Eastern Sierra was left flightless except for local charter planes.

But now the Alpha Aviation Corporation, of Van Nuys, is interested in the area. President of the company, Alan Berenstein, said that his charter service has been running daily flights to Mammoth and will continue to do so.

Though it's unusual for a charter service to run regular flights, Berenstein says the reality of the situation has created a near regularity to his service. Most people like to travel to Mammoth in the morning and return home in the evening. Alpha gets someone to charter a flight and others who call in adjust their schedules so they can travel at the same time. Flights usually leave Van Nuys Airport at 10 or 11 A.M. and return around 4 P.M.

So far the Alpha Aviation plans do not include Bishop, but Berenstein says his airline could possibly switch from charter to regular air service in the future. He'd like to become the replacement airline for the Eastern Sierra.

Bishop Mayor Ron Kister also has plans for creating a new airline. His planes

would service Bishop and several other points in the west.

*

The cost of finding people who get lost in the Sierra is a high one, and it is Inyo County that pays the price initially. But the Sheriff's Department is working on recovering that loss.

Under-Sheriff Bob Vaulet is in charge of billing counties in which rescued victims reside. He's doing pretty well on collections. Of his billings for rescues conducted during 1982, he has raised \$3500. Vaulet bills for helicopter service, manpower, "anything reasonable and necessary to the rescue."

Of eight bills sent to counties, seven have paid. Vaulet said he was "really surprised" at that response. He is in the process of sending out more bills for 1983 rescue efforts. In one rescue involving Richard Williams, a Southern California welder, the helicopter service alone amounts to \$4,000. Williams was lost for several days. He finally walked out on his own, but only after an extensive search had been conducted. Williams' relatives had been distraught when he had failed to return from his trip.

Local authorities can't assume that someone will make it out on his own. In many cases, the rescue efforts are the margin between life and death for hikers hopelessly lost or injured in unfamiliar terrain.

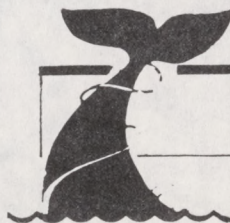
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Development of any kind is a rare thing for Southern Inyo, but there may be a little of it on the way. The Inyo Planning Commissioners recently approved a proposal to rezone nearly 65 acres at the intersection of Highway 395 and Sage Flat Road at Olancho. The rezoning clears the way for a Southern California man to build a truck stop, a restaurant, and a mobile home park in that area.

The commissioners apparently want to be sure it's a serious proposal though. They voted for the change in zoning, but have reserved the right to restore the zoning to its original status if there is no substantial progress on the project within 18 months.

And in Big Pine the Planning Commissioners agreed to the rezoning of about an acre of land from residential to commercial. That acre lies on the east side of Highway 395, north of the intersection with Chestnut St.

News sources say that a local business may have plans to expand on that property. The land is owned by former County Sanatorium Director Mike Cosenza. He had planned to develop a senior citizens housing project there, but, like his plan for the same kind of project in Bishop, it fell through. ■



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PTA FIGHTS CHILD ASSAULTS

BISHOP ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS ADOPT NATIONWIDE PROGRAM TO HELP KIDS COMBAT ASSAULTS.

"Bishop feels like a safe community and that can be dangerous. People tend to deny the fact that a problem is there." That's the way Pat Anderson of the Bishop Elementary School PTA describes a rather shadowy problem that many people are uncomfortable talking about: sexual assault on children.

According to a number of local officials, it's not a problem that can't happen in a rural area like Inyo County. It can and is happening here. In response, Anderson and her colleagues in the PTA are planning a pilot program in the elementary school classrooms. It's called CAPP (Child Assault Prevention Program) and is one that has trained thousands of children nationwide to be more aware of dangerous situations.

The CAPP program began six years ago in Ohio and has now spread throughout the nation. Programs were introduced in California schools three years ago and Anderson says over 40,000 youngsters have gone through the training in Northern California schools alone. After extensive discussion, the Bishop Elementary School Board agreed to allow the CAPP program in Bishop on an experimental basis this spring. Anderson says the training sessions for adult volunteers will begin next month and then CAPP will be introduced to selected classes of first through sixth graders. If successful, the program will be expanded in the future.

Why bring such a program to Bishop? "One in every four girls and one in every nine boys will be sexually assaulted before the age of 18," says Anderson. Frightening figures, to be sure. "Locally that translates into three girls and one boy in every Inyo classroom being assaulted," she says. Even more frightening is the theory that only 20 to 25 percent of sexual assault cases are even reported to police or other agencies.

Most of the time, Anderson says this is because children are afraid to speak up, often because they fear no one will believe them. Many times, too, the person who assaults the child is a member of the family or at least an adult who is known to them. It's not some shadowy stranger offering candy, but sometimes a neighbor, friend of the family, or even a member of the family. "We often only prepare children to deal with strangers, when in fact, it's usually not strangers who are the problem," says Anderson. "And parents usually don't teach their children ways to defend themselves but only teach them fear." But the CAPP program tells them not only what to watch out for but also what to do in a frightening situation.

The program is unique in that it uses role playing to show children right and wrong ways to handle a situation. Parents and teachers and other volunteers who go through a special training program are the ones who take part in the play acting, which is kept at a simple level easily understandable to young children.

But it's also unique in that it shows

kids how to handle everything from bullies on the playground to an actual assault. Even if the children never have a bad experience, Anderson says the program "gives them self-confidence" to deal with anything.

So far, Anderson says she has received very little negative feedback from anyone in the schools or the community, and in fact, the Bishop School Board members each voiced their individual support of the program's concept. "There were some concerns voiced about us destroying the innocence of young children with the program, but I think we answered those to everyone's satisfaction. When you look at the statistics a lot of kids are facing this problem and don't have the skills to deal with it. People think you're protecting a child's innocence, but what you're really doing by not giving them the information is protecting the assaulter, not the child."

Nona Holloway, the Child Protective Services Officer in Inyo County, backs up the statistics Anderson quotes and says she thinks the program is very valuable. "The community needs to realize that these kids aren't always going to be in Bishop. They'll spend some time in big cities shopping in Reno or whatever. They need to know about this." Holloway says that one of the facts she finds most startling is that in all but one case she handled last year, "The kids didn't realize they had a right to say no to what was happening to them. The only exception was a girl 13 years old and it (assaults) had happened several times before she got the courage to say no."

The CAPP program is now gearing up for teacher training sessions and should be ready for classroom use later in the spring. The PTA is hoping it will result in children who are more aware of what could happen to them and better yet, how they can stop it.

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A News Alternative

SMALL AIRLINES ASK: IS INYO WORTH THE TRIP?

Regularly scheduled air service for Inyo-Mono: will it fly? Wings West Airline came closest to providing regular, dependable air service to this area for a few years, but when the blue skies of a richer market came to Wings West, they were off and flying out of the Eastern Sierra for good.

Now the problem has once again arisen for Inyo-Mono. Mojave airlines, which had been providing service for less than a year, suspended its flights, forcing travelers to rely on charter service (see News Briefs, pg. 4). Steve Hester of the Caltrans Division of Aeronautics is searching for a new air carrier to service this area. Hester explained that it's no easy task, since many airlines consider the Eastern Sierra a seasonal market at best, with no guarantee of full flights year round.

Hester's latest efforts included a call to Mojave Airlines officials who told him they want to start service again to Bishop and Mammoth, but are still trying to get finances straightened out. When Mojave first pulled flights out of the Eastern Sierra some reports indicated that the company might file for bankruptcy. Officials of the airline say that has not happened and they're hoping it won't.

But getting investors for small airlines these days is at best an uphill climb. Bishop's Mayor Ron Kister has for many

months tried to interest people here and afar to invest in his plans for a new airline to service many parts of the West. Kister told us that general bad news about the finances of major airlines tends to rub off on small air carriers, but he claims that the financial picture of small commuter airlines is good and getting better all the time.

Still, most people are investing with extreme caution, and news of Mojave's faltering did not help to encourage interest in small airlines. Caltrans' Hester says the Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) had asked Mojave Airlines to show financial ability to operate. If they do so, according to Hester, the CAB may select Mojave as the essential air carrier for Inyo-Kern and Palmdale. That means the airline could be eligible for state funding, which could help catapult Mojave Air back into the Eastern Sierra market.

Meanwhile, another airline has expressed interest in the Eastern Sierra. Hester told us that Royal American Airways, based in Phoenix, Arizona, has considered the idea of flying a large airplane to Mammoth on Fridays and Sundays initially, expanding to Thursday through Sunday during the ski season. But as Hester said, "there has been a lot of talk, been no action so far."

For a number of local business people fast transportation in and out of the area is essential from time to time, and many tourists prefer to fly.

So once more it's a waiting game as airline officials try to figure out if the Eastern Sierra market is worth the trip.

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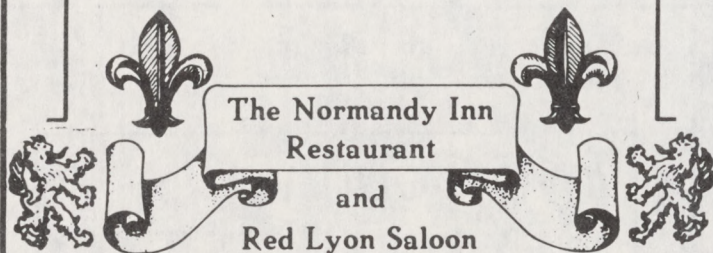


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Pictures You Won't Really Want to Look At

Shopping Bag Ladies of New York, by Joan Roth, Saint Joan's Press, 325 Spring Street, New York 10013.

About four weeks ago I visited San Francisco. I arrived at 5:20 in the morning on the Greyhound bus. The station's at 7th and Market, the edge of the "Tenderloin," a rough section of inner city. 5:20 A.M.'s not a good time to arrive anywhere, but it's a particularly nasty time to arrive in a metropolitan area where the homeless are just waking from their cement, dirt and gravel "beds." It was too early to call the business friends who were also putting me up, but, luckily, I found an open restaurant. I sat behind its smoke-streaked, corner windows for almost two hours, letting the sun come up. I thought mostly of how very glad I was to have plenty of money for breakfast. I didn't need to panhandle a cup of coffee. I didn't need to check all the telephone coin return boxes - as a number of blurry-eyed derelicts had been doing as I escaped the bus terminal as swiftly as possible.

One of the first people I noticed after leaving the restaurant was a "shopping bag lady." She was bent over four or five black trash bags. I looked at her grey anklets and her brown legs bare in the cold morning air, and a stiff chill ran through my whole body. I was directly confronted by one of the reasons I'd moved from the city seven years earlier: highly visible human suffering and poverty. The country, where I now live, at least has grass to sleep on - if you must sleep outdoors. And there you can look up to unsmogged stars. There the population is small; the poor are readily recognized, more readily helped or hospitalized, or - rather unfeelingly and irresponsibly - sent on their way with bus or train fare (do the poor ever know where "their way" is?)

But it is easier to temporarily forget the extent of poverty when you live in the country. Yet I never totally forget. I have seen Mexico City, Lima, Acapulco, Quito...

But, smacked head-on by this American demonstration of poverty - it was a heart-withering welcome to a city I'd once chosen to live in because I thought it "glamorous." To be so rudely smacked...

I headed toward bookstores; they are always my first stop in any city. I was thinking as I moved quickly along - my "country-pace" doubling instinctively - that shopping bag ladies in the United States are a phenomena of the last half of the twentieth century. When I was a high school kid in the late 50's back in the Midwest, we never saw a shopping bag lady, and we went over the border plenty of times from southern Wisconsin to Chicago, seeking thrills.

It seems odd. As a society we weren't proportionally richer then. We were less crowded. Were we more puritanical? Were we more Christian? Were there more - enough - Salvation Army beds? Or were we simply better at hiding our misfits because we still had the remnants of a Victorian conscience?

Ironically enough, one of the first books I saw when I arrived at a bookstore

was Shopping Bag Ladies of New York. This is a large-format paperback book of 121 pages. Eighty-five of those pages contain photographs taken "on location" in the Big Apple. The cover shows a tattered woman holding up a perfect umbrella - though it's an apparently clear day. She stands next to another umbrella, broken, open on the ground next to the rest of her worldly possessions: shopping bags, brooms, purses, a grocery cart full of old clothing and rags.

In this case, you know the photos don't tell the whole story. In fact, the author of the book, Joan Roth, only touches the subject with her pictures. Yet they are perfect in their horror, they are explicitly brutal - something like a sharp knife within millimeters of the eye. But the feeling viewer jerks away just in time, realizing the photos represent just the tip of a sharp iceberg of almost-incomprehensible human degradation. To see more of an overview would be to be blinded. To this extent, Joan Roth has done a "good job" with her camera: the viewer goes away *imagining* more.

Ms. Roth wrote a kind of 37-page introduction to the photos. She begins by telling that her own concern for the shopping bag ladies came only after she finally *saw* one on her own street - though she later discovered the woman had been living there for ten years!

The author began making inquiries as to the city's facilities for such unfortunate women and found that the number of beds available to them even on a short-term basis was miniscule in comparison to the need. She also learned quickly that these women, though they might not have begun on the street as "disturbed," soon become so through social isolation and/or maltreatment and through physical, psychological and spiritual suffering.

Along with a few others, Ms. Roth helped form the initial task force on homeless women in New York City. She says "Today there are several advocates for shopping bag ladies and many new shelters are opening. Nevertheless, as a result of the task force, the city has expanded the Women's Shelter and opened additional care facilities including the Antonio Olivieri Shelter Care Center." (Antonio Olivieri was one of the first officials to get involved, after he saw Ms. Roth's photos; he was a Councilman-at-Large at the time.)

However, Joan Roth did not only take photos and talk about these women. She did volunteer work for a place called "The Dwelling," run by Catholic sisters who gave temporary health care and rest to the street women. A large portion of this book's text is devoted to Ms. Roth's experience with a woman called Brenda, aged about thirty. This single and singular story alone illuminates the cause, the progression, and the probably unhappy resolution of any one shopping bag lady's life.

This is not a pleasant book. This is a book where one finds words like *maggot* and *lice* and *roach* and *syphilis* and *leper* and *rape* in the same sentences with *mother* and

(Continued on Page 8)

SCHOOL (Continued From Page 3)

students, to offer individual attention. Yet it is still able to offer computer courses. Huebert says there is a plan to get a computer into each elementary classroom soon, and the superintendent is also working on setting up what he calls a computer based career center. It will be built around an Apple computer, which will provide an inventory of 450 colleges and universities, as well as job opportunities in the state. That new addition is expected to arrive before June.

The Lone Pine School Board had been seriously discussing consolidating the school districts of Independence and Lone Pine. Some see that as a way to increase the finances and opportunities of both districts. The Owens Valley School Board, however, refused to even consider that type of reorganization.

As Huebert noted, "There is a sense of community identity and pride associated with the school." If things stay the way they are, or even improve, it appears the Independence school will have enough money and enough courses to provide a decent education for its students. Huebert said that the state education reform bill, Senate Bill 813, may offer funding to assist the school district in its efforts to improve local education. The graduation requirements spelled out in that bill are currently being met or surpassed by the Owens Valley School. Still, Huebert is taking it upon himself to work more closely with teachers in order to learn what reforms are needed in Independence.

This year the Owens Valley School District has a new board, some new teachers,

and a relatively new superintendent; it would appear to be a perfect time for the school to take a new direction. ■

BOOKS (Continued from Page 7)

daughter and grandmother. This is a hard, true book - which needs to be read.

For it is apparent that San Francisco, along with most American cities, is still selling its single-dwelling-unit hotels to speculators for renovation and/or condos, making them too expensive for the elderly poor who once lived in them. To see such rich facades, classy lobbies and newly-locked entrances, you need only take a trip through the Tenderloin.

Can we continue to do this? ■

by Eva Poole-Gilson

WHITE (Continued from page 1)

population," certainly a description that would match the Eastern Sierra. But probation officers in both Inyo and Mono said they had not been reached by prison officials about White's parole.

At press time, it became apparent that White would be relocated to the Los Angeles area, much to the surprise of L.A.'s Mayor Bradley. White - who apparently refuses to express any remorse for his crimes - will be given a government job, which must seem ironic to many of Los Angeles' unemployed, and perhaps an assumed name. He will be responsible to a state parole officer and not to local law enforcement. White's release has disturbed not only California's gay population, but has stimulated new doubts about the nation's system of criminal justice. ■

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BENBROOK

by Clarence Benbrook

If the electric chair will not stop murderers, why should a jail term stop drunk drivers?

Yugoslavian girl, claiming she saw the Virgin Mary, was sentenced to 15 days in jail - no doubt, until her Vision clears up.

Holiday traffic accidents will kill between 300 and 400 people. None of these will be anyone we know until they happen.

Scientists search galaxies for alien life. Try San Francisco first.

Panel finds command errors at Beirut airport prior to the bombing. The command needed to know the future - the panel only knows the past.

Government officials estimate that 565,000 bridges in the U.S. are unsafe. *Don't cross your bridges when you come to them!*

In 1982, 260 defendants were found not guilty "by reason of insanity." Insanity is a license to kill.

U.S. farmers owe \$243 billion to the government. They owe their souls to the company store.

The wages of taxation are political death. The wages of not taxing are inflation. The wages of inflation are political death.

L.A. Supervisor Dana urges the U.S. to make Soviet concessions on human rights a pre-condition to any disarmament agreement. Nothing like beating a dead bear.

United Nations figures say that in 20 years the number of severely undernourished people will increase by 235 million. A right to life can also be a right to starve.

The Kremlin admits that its campaign to wipe out religion has not been totally effective. You can lead a Russian to "unholy" water, but you can't make him drink.

The Iranian Ambassador accuses the U.S. of wrongly accusing his country of bombings. The fox accuses the chicken of aggression.

Presidential candidate Cranston sees the nuclear freeze issue propelling him to an upset victory. Only the Midwest won a freeze.

Acid contents of rain studied by state panel. They will study it all the way down to the bottom of your lungs.

Where does individual freedom end and state power begin? At the Supreme Court.

Arms negotiators for the U.S. and Russia must end the rhetoric and start talking. The dictionary says talking is exchanging ideas by spoken words; rhetoric is the art of using words effectively in speaking. If you can't stand the words, get out of the dictionary.

With Arafat gone, who will speak for the Palestinians? He speaks best who speaks for himself.

Despite the D.W.P.'s "Project Angel" fund, they shut off the power on 51,000 customers for non-payment. Where were the angels when the lights went out? In the dark.

Our telephone reached out and touched us... With an obscene phone bill.

but seriously...

A Passing of the Buck -

New paper money will be coming out in 1985. It is already printed and ready for use. It is said to be much more attractive than the old bills. Each denomination is a different color.

The new bills are impregnated with metal so that a large amount going through a metal detector at an airport will make flying a little more exciting for someone trying to take large sums of cash out of the country. You can bet the metal in the bills won't be gold or silver.

It is also claimed that the new money will fight counterfeiting - but fighting is not winning. Large sums of old money brought to be exchanged for new bills will probably be investigated. The government suspects that there is a lot of money hidden in an underground economy and this would be one way of flushing it out. Huge quantities are also passed in the sale of drugs. All of these are legitimate reasons for honest people to approve of the new money.

But you read much ado in the papers about our strong dollar and the effect it is having on our import/export business. There is so much publicity on this that you have to wonder if the government might want to weaken the dollar by devaluation - maybe giving you one new dollar for five or ten of the old ones. Even if the government denies devaluation today, you must still be very suspicious. You can almost bank on it, but bank much less.

Welcome to the Orwellian Twilight Zone of the 80's!

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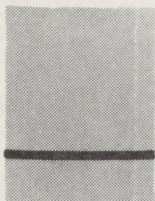
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Notes from B.K.

MONO JUDGE GETS STATEWIDE COVERAGE / SOUTHERN INYO'S
V.P.P. / A SAD CATCH 22 FOR LOCAL WOMEN / TOURISTS
TUSSELE TO BE FIRST AT HAVING TIRES CHAINED

His Honor, the court jester? Well, that's the way *California Magazine* writer Bruce Henderson described ten of California's judges in his January article. One of them is Mono Superior Court Judge Harry Roberts.

In embarrassing black and white print, Roberts found himself described as "abusive and prejudicial." Some of the others were declared guilty of vulgarity in the courtroom and alcoholism on the bench.

Apparently the writer is hoping to shame the state judiciary into good behavior. There's only one problem. The writer evidently did not personally sit in on actual court cases involving the accused judges.

Anyway, no one denies that the 69 year old Roberts has an outrageous style. The State Supreme Court thought so. They had, of course, publicly reprimanded Roberts for some of his behavior.

*

And *California Mag.* took another swat at an Eastern Sierra muckety-muck. Inyo's state Senator H.L. (Big Bad Bill) Richardson is a well-known gun enthusiast. In fact, he once thought about leaving Sacramento and getting into the National Rifle Association full time.

Richardson wants the right to bear arms put into the state constitution. Anyway, in a section on quips for 1983, the magazine says Richardson began a bi-monthly magazine called *Gun Owner*. The first issue featured an article on killing rabbits entitled "High Desert Bunny Blasting." The writer speculated that Richardson's next issue might feature "Pulling Wings Off of Flies."

*

Speaking of blasting wild creatures... The controversy continues over the so-called antlerless deer hunting in Inyo/Mono. Actually, that's just a bureaucratic euphemism for killing female deer or does, as opposed to bucks. Now, the Fish and Game Department assures us that doing away with some of the females will make it easier for the herds in general to survive. The does probably have a different view. Some local hunters are downright outraged.

Killing a lady just ain't sportsmanlike!

*

Very Pleasant People Department: Charlie Hapke of Lone Pine, who takes the time to visit Sierra House South (formerly the county Sanatorium) almost every day. Some of the patients there are unfortunately forgotten. But not by Hapke.

In fact, County Welfare Director Connie Bennett told us that she hopes some community groups will make it a point to send regular visitors to both sanatoriums year-round -

with company for the old folks there and maybe some gifts from time to time. Some say the government allotment to the patients for things like toothpaste is sadly inadequate.

*

Anything but inadequate is the Southern Sierra Ambulance Service. Remember when Lone Pine was the only town without a community ambulance? Clearly, by now, the group in Lone Pine has proven that community spirit there is alive and well.

*

Another one of those Catch 22's: right here in Inyo County, there are women with serious financial problems. But welfare can't help them. Some middle-aged women who have never worked before in their lives were deserted by their husbands of many years and left with no support. Their children have grown and left. Some of those women are having a rough go of it, but they simply do not qualify for welfare benefits.

*

And if you think the economy is just hunky-dory now, more pleas for help came into the Welfare Department during this past holiday season than ever before. Many people still have no jobs.

*

West Bishop's Cindy O'Connor may be searching for political office soon. She had told us that she was making plans to run for State Assemblyman. Democrat O'Connor would challenge Republican Phil Wyman for that seat.

Might be nice to have someone close at hand representing us in Sacramento.

*

And a *Newsletter* get well goes to Jack Schat, Sr. Heard he was hospitalized over the holidays. Nothing too serious. Schat is, of course, the original genius behind Schat's Bakery. In fact, Jack, Sr. is still applying that art on dough and batter every day with his son Erick.

*

"A horse! A horse! My kingdom for a horse!" So lamented King Richard in the Shakespearean play. But at Mammoth during the holidays raving tourists were screaming, "Chains! Chains! My kingdom for a set of chains!" Rich and nouveau riche alike had to wait in maddeningly long lines at service

(Continued on Page 11)

B.K.'s NOTES (From Page 10)

stations to get their tires chained-up for snowland driving.

Tourists actually got into fist fights at some service stations - trying to their tires chained first. We heard that one man actually pulled a gun demanding to go to the front of the line.

It's tough having fun!

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BK

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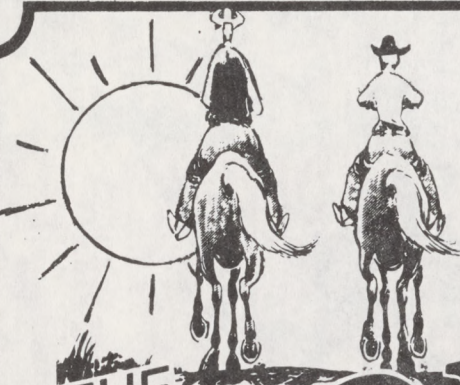
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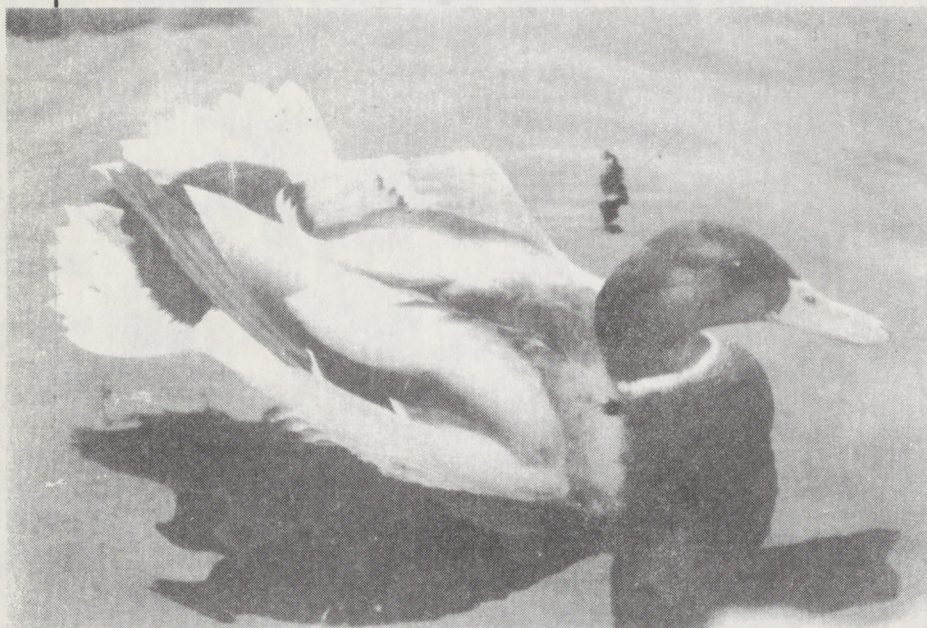
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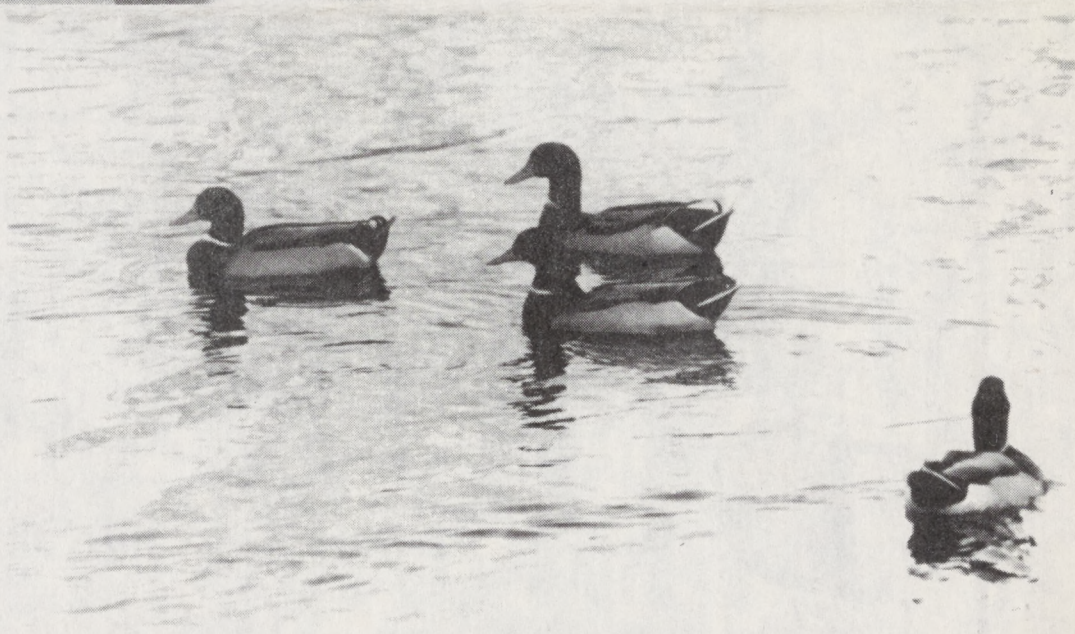
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LONE PINE

Photo Page



The ducks at the Mt. Whitney Fish Hatchery at Independence were out enjoying the spring-like weather, as the Eastern Sierra was given a respite from the mid-winter blues.



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